

## **Controlling intestinal parasites in tropical fish with Flubendazole**

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Flubendazole is a compound belonging to a group of chemical compounds which are effective in controlling intestinal parasites like round worms, tape worms and pin worms, etc.

These compounds are NOT antibiotics. They do not control bacteria or fungal infections and in fact may escalate these problems as they kill off the other infections. This compound is not the cure all. Flubendazole is useful for controlling intestinal parasites. These parasites include most of the nematodes, flukes and protozoa. Flubendazole is active through adsorption into the fish skin and gills. The drug does not have to be eaten to be effective. This makes the drug useful for treating fishes which have quit eating due to irritation from infection.

Effective treatment can be achieved with a dose of 1/2 gram per 5 gallons of treated water. A much higher economical treatment can be achieved by removing half of the water in the treated tank as long as the usual aeration and mixing can be maintained.

First things first, the tank water should be changed. It is not necessary to clean the tank, just change the water, all of it. After treatment, change it again. The bodies of the dead animals need to be removed. Also, it is best to have live wiggling or jumping food in front of the patients as they recover so have live baby brine shrimp or worms ready for the treated fishes.

Add 1/4 teaspoon of the medication for each 5 gallons of tank water. It may float for a while, but it needs to be mixed into the tank water, swirl it in to dissolve. Hydra, Ick and Velvet take three days to remove. Heximeta may take three doses to remove completely over five to seven days to complete. Three days after the first treatment change the water again. Add another dose of 1/4 teaspoon/5 gal to the fresh water. Change the water a second time after 5 to 7 days.

This should take care of everything. A third dose after three or four weeks will insure the treatment, but usually isn't necessary unless symptoms reappear.

Link to website: <http://www.inkmkr.com/Fish/>

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